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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 6/21/51

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dest 3/29/54 Jeo

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Luis Quintanilla, Mexican Amb. to OAS
Walter Thurston

COPIES TO: S/P - Mr. Watts
EE - Mr. Reinhardt
MID - Mr. Rubottom

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Ambassador Luis Quintanilla called on me this afternoon at his request. He had called once before (on June 1) following the visit reported in my memorandum of May 25.

Sr. Quintanilla stated on June 1 that a few days earlier he and his wife and Mexican Ambassador Rafael de la Colina and Mrs. Colina had dined at the Soviet Embassy as the only non-Russian guests. On this occasion Quintanilla had found himself engaged in conversation with members of the Soviet Embassy, whom he believes to have been either Nikolai A. Vladykin or Nikolai K. Grigorev, both of whom are listed as Counselors of Embassy, and Michail N. Smirnovsky, listed as a First Secretary. Later Quintanilla had invited these new acquaintances to his home to play chess and out of this meeting there developed an invitation for him to visit what appears to be a Soviet beach cottage on the Bay near Annapolis.

Ambassador Quintanilla and his wife spent the last weekend with the Russians cited at the cottage at this resort and he wanted to report that they are convinced that our [illegible] dialectic

reasons

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reasons we are determined to go to war with the Soviet Union and are bending all our efforts to bring that war about. They inquired of Quintanilla how war could be avoided under such circumstances, but dismissed as naive his assertions that they had misinterpreted American national temperament and intentions, as it is our earnest desire to avoid war. Quintanilla said that his hosts showed great interest in ascertaining the names of his acquaintances in the State Department.

At the close of our conversation, Quintanilla said that the officials of the Soviet Embassy named had expressed reluctance to return to his home, fearing that it might not be safe for them to do so--presumably having reference to the possibility that American security agents may have installed dictaphone and other devices in Quintanilla's residence. Quintanilla appeared somewhat uneasy on this score himself and said that if I thought he should drop his contacts with the Soviets, he would do so at once, or, on the other hand, if we thought it advantageous to us for him to maintain them he would do that. I endeavored to make it clear to Quintanilla that I doubted that we had violated his residence and that he must make his own decision as to the wisdom or unwisdom of further dealings with the Soviet Embassy. He stated several times that the Soviets feel themselves to be working in a vacuum here, completely isolated from contact with the Americans and that this was not a healthy situation. He implied that an informal meeting between members of the Department and his contacts in the Soviet Embassy might be advisable as a means of conveying to them at first-hand official statements of our attitude toward the difficulties that lie between the two countries.

I told Ambassador Quintanilla that I would bring his various statements to the attention of Mr. Reinhardt.

S/P:WThurston:vh